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REMARKS

Pending Claims 11-25. In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Williams rejected pending claims 11-25 on various grounds. The Applicant responds to each rejection as subsequently recited herein, and respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the present application under 37 CFR § 1.112:

- A. Examiner Williams rejected pending claims 11-14, 19 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,578,892 to *Whitman et al.*

The Applicant has thoroughly considered Examiner Williams' remarks concerning the patentability of claims 11-14, 19, and 21-23 over *Whitman*. The Applicant has also thoroughly read *Whitman*. To warrant this 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 11-14, 19 and 21-23, *Whitman* must show each and every limitation of independent claim 11 in as complete detail as is contained in independent claim 11. See, MPEP §2131. The Applicant respectfully traverses this §102(b) rejection of independent claim 11, because *Whitman* fails to disclose, teach or suggest "a plurality of pigment particles dispersed through said organically modified silane network, said plurality of pigment particles for absorbing a first portion of the visible light propagating through said light-absorbing coating (3) without generating a light scattering of a second portion of the visible light propagating through said light-absorbing coating (3)" as recited in independent claim 11. See, *Whitman* at column 5, lines 39-54.

Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Whitman* is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 12-14, 19 and 21-23 depend from independent claim 11. Therefore, dependent claims 12-14, 19 and 21-23 include all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 11. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claims 12-14, 19 and 21-23 are allowable over *Whitman* for at least the same reason as set forth with respect to independent claim 11 being allowable over *Whitman*.

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Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12-14, 19 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Whitman* is therefore respectfully requested.

- B. Examiner Williams rejected pending claims 15-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,578,892 to *Whitman* et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,129,980 to *Tsukada* et al.

Claims 15-18 and 20 depend from independent claim 11. Therefore, dependent claims 15-18 and 20 include all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 11. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claims 15-18 and 20 are allowable over *Whitman* in view of *Tsukada* for at least the same reason as set forth with respect to independent claim 11 being allowable over *Whitman*. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 15-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Whitman* in view of *Tsukada* is therefore respectfully requested.

- C. Examiner Williams rejected pending claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,578,892 to *Whitman* et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,359,255 to *Kawai* et al.

Claims 24 and 25 depend from independent claim 11. Therefore, dependent claims 24 and 25 include all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 11. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claims 24 and 25 are allowable over *Whitman* in view of *Kawai* for at least the same reason as set forth with respect to independent claim 11 being allowable over *Whitman*. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Whitman* in view of *Kawai* is therefore respectfully requested.

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New Claims 26-30. The Applicant respectfully asserts that the art of record fails to disclose, teach or suggest “a single layer light-absorbing coating (3) at least partially covering said light-transmitting lamp vessel (1) whereby the visible light propagates into said single layer light-absorbing coating (3) from said light-transmitting lamp vessel (1), said single layer light-absorbing coating (3) including an organically modified silane network, and a plurality of pigment particles dispersed through said organically modified silane network, said plurality of pigment particles for absorbing a first portion of the visible light propagating through said light-absorbing coating (3) without generating a substantial light scattering of a second portion of the visible light propagating through said light-absorbing coating (3)” as recited in independent claim 26. In particular, *Whitman* discloses a two layer filter. See, Whitman at column 5, line 39 to column 6, line 11. An allowance of independent claim 26 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 27-30 depend from independent claim 26. Therefore, dependent claims 27-30 include all of the elements and limitations of independent claim 26. It is therefore respectfully submitted by the Applicant that dependent claims 27-30 are allowable over the art of record for at least the same reason as set forth with respect to independent claim 26 being allowable over the art of record. An allowance of dependent claims 27-30 is therefore respectfully requested.

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SUMMARY

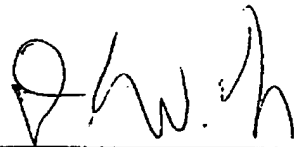
Examiner Williams' anticipation and obviousness rejections of claims 11-25 have been obviated by the remarks herein supporting an allowance of independent claim 11 over *Whitman*. The Applicant has provided support herein for the allowance of new claims 26-30 over the art of record. The Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 11-25 as amended herein and new claims 26-30 as added herein fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, Examiner Williams is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Dated: **December 10, 2003**

Respectfully submitted,
MARCEL RENE BOHMER ET AL.

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